The Voice of the University of Toronto at Mississauga

THE MEDIUM

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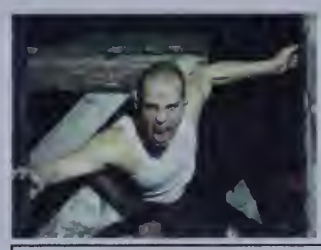

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nananananana Bat Boy!!

WTF?

photo/Denyse Gibson

Students traveling to the South Building via the Five Minute walk are scratching their heads in collective perplexion at this recently erected billboard. No one seems to know what it means, where it came from, or why it has been placed there. Perhaps a photo credit is in order, or maybe a visit from Dr. Phil?

SAC All-Candidates' Forum fails to draw crowd at Erindale

Some candidates missing; few have knowledge about UTM campus

BY JULIE TYIOS

Following the bombardment of multi-coloured campaign posters around campus on Monday that marked the start of spring elections, student politicians began making their rounds at UTM last week to find out what issues affect suburban campus students. Last Thursday, UTM students were subjected to a three-hour debate between candidates for the upcoming Students' Administrative Council (SAC) elections, which saw a very subdued presentation of each candidate's platform for one of six positions on the SAC executive.

A majority of the candidates were from the St. George campus, some visiting UTM for the very first time. The main focus of the group of candidates that showed up to make speeches were those running for the position of President, which saw Paul Bretscher, Shehan De Silva, David Lee, Dylan Rae and Mark Sutherland pitch their piece in an attempt to garner student votes.

This year, there are 31 candidates running for each of the six positions - President, Vice-President Operations, Vice-President External, Vice-President University Affairs, Vice-President Equity, and Vice-President UTM. Last year, SAC made a move to create seven Vice-President executive positions to operate the organization with the aid of the Board of Directors. At a recent SAC Annual General Meeting, however, it was passed with a majority vote to remove the position of VP Student Life from the elections ticket, and rename it VP Campus Life, with the appointment of the position left to the discretion of the SAC executive.

There were also changes made this year to the nature of the All-Candidates' Forum, in that representatives were only allowed a minute for opening statements and questions read out by the Chief Returning Officer, and a minute and a half for closing remarks. Questions were collected on pieces of paper before the start of the speeches and were directed at all candidates during the question and answer period, preventing a

SAC continued on page 3

photo/Denyse Gibson

SAC Presidential candidates came out Thursday to make speeches to students at Erindale. Pictured are (l to r): Mark Sutherland, Paul Bretscher, Dylan Rae, David Lee, and Shehan De Silva. James Webster is MIA.

Grow Smart, Grow Green: U of T launches new Sustainability Office

BY YVETTE BOCHAR

Environmentalism and optimism abound at the U of T thanks to a major new initiative, the first-ever U of T Sustainability Office. Located downtown, the Sustainability Office is the new headquarters for environmental welfare efforts at the U of T. The University's Environmental Protection Advisory Committee (EPAC) was key in the founding of this new office after reporting on several interrelated issues, specifically greenhouse emissions, escalating energy costs, and local-to-regional air pollution.

Charged with the responsibility of developing the Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction Strategy, this office is expected not only to exceed the goals of the Kyoto Accord, but to create a role model for other institutions in terms of environmental efforts.

This is rather ambitious, considering 63,000 students currently attend classes or participate in activities located at the 240 buildings owned hy the U of T. According to the website for the Sustainability Office, 26 per cent of energy consumed at the U of T is from lighting alone. Academic and administrative uses of energy account for 47 per cent of total consumption.

"One of the greatest barriers to sustainability is insufficient education about environmental problems and their solutions," says the website for the office. Provided on the site is a list of programs and classes offered by the University and the Institute for Environmental Studies.

The official document outlining the University's Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHGE) Reduction Strategy says that because of the amount of "technical experts, researchers, and students involved in energy and environmental issues...there is an opportunity for U of T to expand its role as a leader in sustainability research and education." However, the U of T is unable to capitalize on these assets essentially for lack of efficiency, accountability, and resources. The GHGE Strategy has been proposed in order to address these issues by several means, one of which is the establishment of the Sustainahility Office.

The objectives of the Sustainability Office include minimizing energy use through efficient management and practice, minimizing polluting effluents and emissions into air, land and water and meeting, and where possible exceeding environmental standards, regulations and guidelines. It has already been immensely successful - not only was the Sustainability Office launched days before the Kyoto Accord actually took effect in Canada, but environmental projects have already begun at all three U of T campuses.

The Centre for Emerging Energy Technologies and the U of T at Mississauga has installed several environmentally sensitive energy technologies which include fuel cells to power a cluster of the residences and solar panels to provide energy for the library.

"The Sustainability Office is a historic step towards environmental improvement at the University of Toronto," says Beth Savan, the Sustainahility Office coordinator. "I look forward to working with staff, students, and faculty to build a cleaner, greener U of T." With such high goals and optimistic attitudes, the University hopes to estahlish a reputation for itself as a leader in environmental effort, education, and progress.

Students are invited to become involved by contacting the office.

INSIDE...

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MONDAY MOVIE MADNESS

THIS MONDAY
February 28th
12 - Ray
3:00 - The Notebook
5:30 - Ray

THE DETAILS
STUDENT CENTRE PRESENTATION ROOM
VOTE FOR MOVIES AT:
WWW.UTM.UTORONTO.CA/SCEVENTS
QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? REQUESTS?
E-MAIL US AT MONDAY_MOVIES@HOTMAIL.COM

NEXT MONDAY
March 7th
12 - The Gods Must be Crazy
2 - The Life Aquatic
4 - I Heart Huckabees
6 - The Day After Tomorrow

SC EVENTS

New UTM Bioconvergence Center merges academia, industry

New initiative a part of U of T's academic plan, *Stepping Up*

BY YVETTE BOCHAR

By actively promoting and encouraging the interaction of several academic disciplines as well as the collaboration of academia, government, and industry, UTM is helping to create an economic community of possibilities.

As one of the most significant biotechnology clusters in Canada, stakeholders in the Western GTA are combining their efforts to create a productive relationship between the economy and the community. UTM is one of many with a great interest in this endeavor.

According to the Western GTA's website, an "economic community" would provide the firms and communities of the region with a "sustained advantage." The stakeholders in this community come from a broad range of sectors, including the industrial, academic, medical, and governmental. However, they are unified by a common objective: "To network and enhance infrastructure, education, research, and public impact for the regional community, thereby stimulating and integrating opportunities to support commercial, institutional and societal developments that are related to all aspects of the life sciences."

This goal has been supported by the Biotechnology Cluster Innovation Program (BCIP) of Ontario's Ministry of Economic Development and Trade. More specifically, the Western GTA hopes to achieve its objective through the Biosciences Convergence Centre (BioCC), an organization which will coordinate activities within the Western GTA cluster. Three regional initiatives that will be supervised by the BioCC include:

The Accelerator: An entrepreneurial and business support organization (Mississauga Technology Business Accelerator, MTBA) that works with industry, government and academic partners to be responsive to the needs of the partners, promoting the creation, adoption and commercialization of knowledge, development of management specialists, development of policy specialists, and participation in facilitating development of health-related policy.

Healthy City Stewardship Initiative: Based on the Mississauga-World Health Organization "Healthy City" program, it will operate to assist in further development of regional social, educational, recreational and employment/volunteer opportunities and services.

Smart Growth - Research and People: Partnering and alignment for development of scientific research and academic programming by academic (university and college) and community hospital institutions.

UTM will play a fundamental role in achieving and materializing the aims of BioCC. The university will host conferences where industry, government, and academia will have the opportunity to participate in workshops and programs together to explore the impact of commercial products and policies. The UTM Centre for Physical Education will collaborate with the City and community hospitals to play a key role in promoting health and wellness. Furthermore, the expansion of facilities and creation of jobs will provide, according to U of T's new academic plan, Stepping Up, "enormous potential for development of interactions in scientific research and academic programming by the partnering academic...and community hospital institutions."

UTM has introduced its own initiative for progress by launching the brand new BioConvergence Center, as a part of Stepping Up.

"There are great opportunities opening up for our students in vastly different areas of study," said Professor Ulli Krull, Vice Principal of Research at UTM and AstraZeneca Chair of biotechnology. Krull represents the academic stakeholders in the Western GTA's new economic community on the Advisory Board of the BioCC.

"We're investing heavily in our outplacement co-op programs and aggressively promoting outreach opportunities into the local science park and industrial communities."

According to Krull, the BioConvergence Center will involve "us with the provincial maelstrom, giving us a network of connectivity with the local institutions here as well as around the world through such avenues as the World Health Organization, other colleges in the neighbourhood and businesses that we could never have accessed any other way. We really are bridging academia and industry."

Question of the week

"Just how diverse is our campus?"

Sadia Ali, 3rd year Bio/ Life Sciences student

"Yes, in terms of ethnic backgrounds, but in terms of ideology, not very."

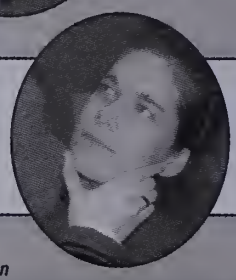
"No, I don't think it is that diverse. I think it lacks, it still has a long way to go. I think there are many different faces, but I don't think that they are all well-represented yet. There is room for improvement."

Mark Hawthorne, 4th year History student

Roman Lecki, 4th year Poli Sci and Classics student

"It's only natural that Toronto, being one of the biggest multicultural cities in the world, allows our campus to be as diverse as it is."

"Pretty diverse. Compared to other countries ours is diverse."



Dympna DeVoy, 4th year Art and Art History Student

photos/Denyse Gibson

TAKE OFF, EH!

FLIGHTS

LONDON HEATHROW	from $339 ROUND TRIP	LOS ANGELES	from $229 ROUND TRIP
PARIS/VIENNA	from $379 ROUND TRIP	MEXICO CITY	from $399 ROUND TRIP
AMSTERDAM/WARSAW	from $429 ROUND TRIP	RIO/SAO PAOLO	from $799 ROUND TRIP
PRAGUE/VENICE	from $449 ROUND TRIP	SHANGHAI/BEIJING	from $927 ROUND TRIP
NICE/BARCELONA	from $419 ROUND TRIP	SYDNEY	from $1035 ROUND TRIP
ATHENS	from $519 ROUND TRIP	DUBAI/ABU DHABI	from $1149 ROUND TRIP

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Embracing dancing and diversity at the Blind Duck Pub

photos/Julie Tyios

Students from the Black Students' Association, Carribean Connections, and the Erindale College African Students' Association put on a well-received talent show Thursday night at the pub. Student volunteers modeled various ethnic fashions and performed dances from around the world. Pictured above (l to r): two Moroccan sword fighters dance and clash, a student performs a traditional latin dance, and a rapper from the group Iron Crescent waves to the crowd following his lyrical message. The event was a part of Black History Month celebrations.

SAC elections up and running

Continued from front

singling-out or bias toward any single nominee.

Many of the candidates stressed that they would end the mismanagement of student money, a problem which has seemingly plagued SAC in the past. Among other things, visibility, transparency, the reduction of parking pass fees and a UPASS initiative with Mississauga Transit were the most common things promised by the candidates.

The most controversial issue addressed came from the Diversity ticket, who promised that, if the students chose to bring about a referendum, would seek to separate SAC UTM from the downtown chapter. Thereby denouncing any fiscal responsibility to St. George, and ensuring that UTM student money is kept exclusively at UTM.

Two candidates are running for VP UTM, current Deputy Vice-President Walied Khogali from the Progress ticket, and Anastasia Trofimova. Only Khogali showed up to make his speech on Thursday. He promised to continue UTM commission projects, the used book exchange, create a convenience store in the Student Centre for residence students, and stop the overspending of student funds.

"SAC has changed this year, it is more diverse," he stated. "SAC is working with many clubs now, and whatever needs to be done will be done. . . . I've done a lot of work for UTM because I'm passionate. Every dollar SAC UTM gets will be spent at UTM."

Another election will be held in March to determine the makeup of the SAC Board of Directors.

The Candidates:

President:
Paul Bretscher, Dylan Rae, Shehan De Silva, David Lee, James Webster, Mark Sutherland

Vice-President Operations:
Li Dai, Christopher Chadwick, Tabatha Cyrus, Zain Zahid Shafiq, Monique Ferdinand

Vice-President External:
Jen Hassum, Jonathan Jaffit, Ryan Ackers, Kasia Wichrowska, Ashwin Balamohan

Vice-President Equity:
Shaila Kibria, Guanyan Vicky Liu, Sakshi Mehta, A. Daniel Roth, Alan Rosenhoch

Vice-President University Affairs:
Estefania Toledo, Arash N. Wared, Alice Kim, David Fremes, Thomas Brown, Santiago del Carrill, Masha Dudelzak

Vice-President UTM:
Walied Khogali, Anastasia Trofimova

Islam Awareness Week

photo/MSA

A student reads posters put on display by the Muslim Students' Association during Islam Awareness Week. Various events were held around campus.

Events @ UTM events@mediumonline.ca

30-Hour Famine

When: March 4th-5th, 2005
Time: Starts at 2 p.m.
Cost: Hunger

Students will participate in a 30 hour famine spanning two days at UTM. All proceeds will go to World Vision Canada. Interested students may still sign up by emailing utm@mealexchange.com

P.A.U.S.E Variety Night

When: March 8th, 2005, 9 p.m.
Where: Blind Duck Pub

P.A.U.S.E.'s annual variety night will seek to raise money for autism research. Performers are still needed for this event. Interested parties should drop by the PAUSE office in room 1094 of the South Building.

Transportation Town Hall Meeting

Come, let us know how you feel!

The Minister of Transportation will be here, Mississauga Transit

March 1, 2005 @ 6 pm
Presentation Room

For more information contact
shailakibria@yahoo.ca

CHOOSING YOUR PROGRAM: Tuesday, Mar. 1, 5-6 & Wednesday, Mar. 9, 3-4.
NOW THAT I'M GRADUATING, WHAT'S NEXT? Tuesday, Mar. 1, 6-7 & Monday, Mar. 7, 11-12.
SUMMER JOB SEARCH: Thursday, Mar. 3, 11-12. **RESUME & COVER LETTER:** Monday, Mar. 7, 1-3.
RESUME CRITIQUES: Wednesday, Mar. 2, 10-1 & Thursday, Mar. 3, 10-2:30. (first-come, first-served).
ANTHROPOLOGY CAREER PANEL: Monday, Mar. 7, 5:30-7:30, Student Centre Boardroom.

CAREER CENTRE NOW HIRING: Fall 2005 opportunities include Student Career Assistants and Marketing Assistants. Info Sessions: Monday, Feb. 28, 3-4; Friday, Mar. 4, 1-2; Wed Mar. 9, 11-12.

CAREER CENTRE @ UTM www.utm.utoronto.ca/careers

Vibe BOD still undecided on Pathak's fate as Promotions Director

Questions ongoing as to whether term suspension from Vibe is deserved

By Daniel Filipe Martins

More than a week has passed since the abrupt suspension of Vibe Promotions Manager Sunny Pathak, but the reasons behind the suspension remain unclear. Sources say that although the Vibe Board of Directors met last week to determine whether or not the suspension was valid, the issue will remain unresolved until a new board meeting can be held.

The chairman of Vibe's Board of Directors, Josh Kyrzakos, made it clear that Pathak had not been dismissed outright, only suspended, although the suspension is apparently for the remainder of his term as Promotions Manager.

Pathak declined to directly comment on the issue. As of last Friday, Pathak told *The Medium* that no comment was possible as he himself had not yet been informed of his fate as Promotions Manager.

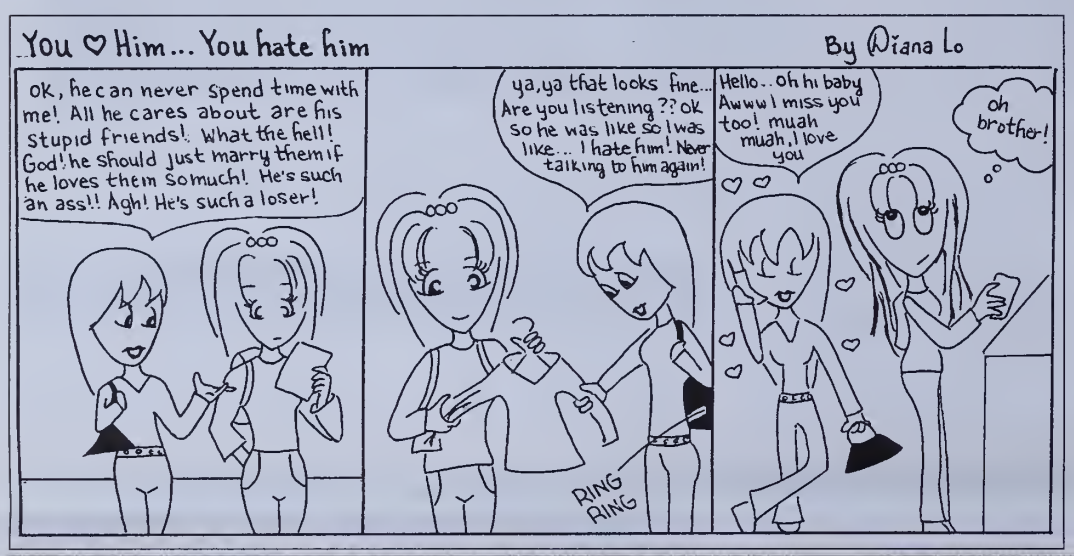
> "I still don't know what's going on."
> -Sunny Pathak on his suspension

"I'm still awaiting word from the Board of Directors," Pathak said. "That's all I'm going to say right now. I still don't know what's going on." Following a decision by the Board of Directors, Pathak will have the opportunity to appeal his suspension.

Vibe management has staunchly declined to make any comments regarding Pathak's suspension, regarding it as an exclusively internal matter. Chairman Kyrzakos said in a brief statement that "the nature of the suspension is a private matter between the employees of Vibe and the Board of Directors." Kyrzakos added that the station has no plans to release any information regarding the details of Pathak's suspension.

Pathak has been no stranger to controversy, having clashed with Vibe and student government officials on several occasions in the past. In one instance, a report was filed with campus police by another Vibe employee earlier this year, although campus police director Len Paris stressed that when interviewed, campus police have never been directly involved.

When questioned on the subject of Pathak's conflict with co-workers, director Paris said that "some of this involves personal conflict, so some of it should remain confidential." It is expected that the Board of Directors will settle the matter soon.


You ♡ Him... You hate him
By Diana Lo
ok, he can never spend time with me! All he cares about are his stupid friends!. What the hell! God! he should just marry them if he loves them so much! He's such an ass!! Agh! He's such a loser!
ya, ya that looks fine... Are you listening ?? ok so he was like so I was like... I hate him! Never talking to him again!
RING RING
Hello.. oh hi baby Awww I miss you! too! muah muah, I love you
oh brother!

Campus Police Reports

February 17th - 24th, 2005

February 17th, 2005 @ 8:57 a.m.
Motor Vehicle Accident

A vehicle rolled out of its parking spot and hit another parked vehicle. There was minor damage to both vehicles.

February 20th, 2005 @ 4:07 p.m.
Theft Under $5000.00

Theft of a cellular phone. Estimated value of stolen property is $100.00.

February 20th, 2005 @ 5:00 p.m.
Theft Under $5000.00

Report of on-going thefts of personal belongings. University Police are investigating.

February 12th, 2005 @ 3:50 a.m.
Uttering Threats

University Police are investigating threats made against a UTM student from another UTM student. The students involved were cautioned not to have contact with each other.

February 21th, 2005 @ 1:10 p.m.
Property Damage

Report of a University sign hit by an unknown vehicle. Value of the damaged property is unknown at this time.

February 21st, 2005 @ 3:00 p.m.
Noise Complaint

Report of loud music coming from a residents unit. University Police advised the occupant of the room to turn off the music.

February 22nd, 2005 @ 8:25 a.m.
Property Damage

Report of damage to a University emergency phone. The damage has been submitted for repairs. Estimate value of damage is unknown at this time.

February 23rd, 2005 @ 9:30 a.m.
Fraud Under $5000.00 and Uttering Forged Currency

Report of a fraudulent $10 Cdn banknote. University Police confiscated the banknote for further investigation.

February 23rd, 2005 @ 3:45 p.m.
Theft Under $5000.00

Theft of a textbook. Estimated value of stolen property is $120.00.

February 23rd, 2005 @ 5:20 p.m.
Theft Under $5000.00

Theft of an iPod. Estimated value of stolen property is $340.00.

February 23rd, 2005 @ 7:00 p.m.
Information - Harassment

A UTM student reported being harassed by another UTM student. University Police are investigating.

February 24th, 2005 @ 2:00 a.m.
Harassing Phone calls

A University student reported receiving unwanted phone calls. University Police are investigating.

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EDITORIAL

THE MEDIUM

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Sever the St. George Ties

Last Thursday candidates running in the SAC election gave speeches and answered questions as to why they should be elected. It happened in the presentation room of the Student Centre. It was typical student politics. Not that students at large know anything about it, of course, because the speeches were not advertised in any way. Perhaps I have a biased opinion on the matter, but aren't events similar to this supposed to be advertised in the campus newspaper two weeks prior to the event?

EDITORIAL

It doesn't matter really. Even if they had advertised I doubt any students would have bothered to attend. And who can blame them? The event started half an hour after it was supposed to and consisted primarily of political hopefuls from the St. George campus pretending to know and care about UTM campus issues. Each candidate for the position of SAC president spouted out the same tired political rhetoric about how they were going to make UTM a better place. The most laughable was the ever infamous issue of parking. Presidential hopeful Shehan De Silva promised to reduce parking fees on our campus. I guess no one botherd to tell Di Silva that parking fees were increased by 25% a few weeks ago despite SAC efforts to prevent it.

Increased bus service to our campus was another hot topic, but no candidates offered any viable solutions for attaining this. When one candidate made passing reference to UPass, all credibility of the would-be politicians was lost. UPass is a deal being negotiated between the Mississauga Transit and UTM. The gist of the deal is this. All full time students will pay a mandatory fee of $40 per semester that will go to the Mississauga Transit. In return, UTM students are granted unlimited free travel on all Mississauga Transit routes all the time. In addition, if the UPass deal were to go through, Mississauga Transit is willing to expand and increase its routes to better service UTM's population.

Programs similar to UPass are already in place at Western, Guelph, McMaster and other universities in Ontario. All students pay for public transit and all students have access to unlimited travel on all bus routes. For Erindale, the main idea behind the program is giving incentive for more students to take transit. My sources tell me that SAC opposed the UPass program because it represented another fee increase for students. There is some validity in that argument. The residents of Mississauga, like many suburbs, have a perpetual hardon for their cars, and no doubt students who insist on driving to school on their own accord would be none to pleased about paying $80 a year so that others can ride the bus. Whether or not you support SAC's opposition to the UPass program, you can't help but savour the irony when a future SAC executive hypes up a program that present SAC executives are already opposed to.

For me, the credibility of the candidates was shot before the speeches even started. On the day of the speeches I rode the shuttle bus from St. George to UTM. A few seats behind me, a number of SAC candidates were discussing their political strategies for the day. They asked several UTM students what they thought the 'big issues' were on our campus. That, in a nutshell, is how much consideration is given to our campus by St. George political types. When these same candidates stepped up to make their speeches, I heard them echo nearly word for word the stories told to them by those unsuspecting Erindale students on the bus. And I'm supposed to believe that these St. George SAC reps give a damn about my campus? Not a chance!

I suppose we can't really expect St. George types to know or care too much about our lowly suburban campus. For that reason I support David Lee for president. Of all the presidential candidates, Lee was the only one who promised to hold a referendum with the intent of separating SAC downtown from SAC UTM. Our east campus brother, Scarborough College, held a similar referendum about a year ago. Students voted to remove their campus from downtown SAC rule, and they seem to be doing better as a result.

I don't want to see SAC leave the UTM campus, but I think it is time to sever the beuracratic umbilical cord that connects us with the SAC mothership. In Walied Khogali I see a dedicated student leader that lives and breathes UTM. If he is elected VP UTM and David Lee is elected president, perhaps they can work together towards forging an independent SAC representation on our campus.

Till next time...

Adrian Barek

THE MEDIUM is published weekly by Medium II Publications; a non-profit, incorporated student organization. The opinions expressed within are those of the writers and editors and do not necessarily reflect those of Medium II Publications. THE MEDIUM's mandate includes informing students of local and national concerns, and giving Erindale College students an opportunity to practice journalism.

Damn Julie and her keen observations. My apologies to all the pretty ladies on campus, especially the ones wearing skirts, for the even things that will be written about you in the paper next year at Julie. I hate all girls. Tyios is elected to EB. We have no fucking internet. We cannot produce a paper without the internet. Oh god how I need my fix of the internet. Wait! Sean and Adel have come to the rescue by letting me use the pub's computer which has the internet. Thank you geeks, you saved most 21 from certain death. Johanna asks me where going to cut off my head and shit down my neck cause I didn't do my dishes. I told Pizza Hut to go suck a fuck. How exactly does one suck a fuck? Go ask your mother. Denyse and I have finally agreed on something. We both agree that condoms suck! Speaking of suck. Pizza Hut fucking sucks! I guess they heard my comment cause they screwed up our order big time. I blame Denyse since she ordered it. I called and bitched and now they are sending our entire order again for free. Once except there is only me and Rene left to eat it. And then there were five!

Student resents the U of T being referred to as a 'spiritual wasteland'

re: Lent offers Christians a powerful hope to push through bleak times
(Vol. 31, Iss. 20)

I would just like to make a quick personal response to the letter submitted by Jim Delinis in last week's issue of The Medium. (Vol. 31, Issue 20).

I am not religious. I was raised within the Catholic faith, and have since retained the moral sense of my upbringing. That aside, I was extremely offended by this blatant and seemingly ignorant piece of Christian pretentiousness. Perhaps the intention to reinstate and explain Christian values among the masses of UTM was honorable at first, but I found some of the contents quite questionable, even despite my semi-atheistic attitude.

First of all, I do not believe an uncalled-for 'decadent leftist echo' exists in our society as it is described in this letter. I do not believe that Canada is 'always wrong' either, especially in its inclination towards peacekeeping rather than world domination; nor do I believe that our society's moral values are out of date. If anything, with our recent push to legalize homosexual marriage, I think we are moving forward with our beliefs and attitudes rather than holding back and staying with a traditional, Middle Ages kind of view. We as a society gave women the right to vote in 1919, and at one point that and other rights were simply unheard of. Who knew?

Overlooking society's needs as a diverse group of humans, I can appreciate that people of a specific and devout faith tend to hold dear their beliefs and values, the core foundations of a faith are the motivation for adjusting one's life to fit this mould. I don't, however, think that Christians are the only ones who live humbly or have hope in their faith in bleak times. It also seems to me that the founders of many other faiths suffered immensely as well, and in this suffering sprung forth the foundation of religion. A hope was planted in Mecca when the Prophet Muhammad was born in 570 C.E. and the Islamic faith currently has just as many followers worldwide as all of the branches of Christianity. It is also a force to be reckoned with. The case for faith is not such a sticky issue; it is based on personal and moral choice. Those who die in the name of their faith do so because they strongly believe in their mission and their faith in their God.

I also take extreme personal offense to U of T being referred to as a 'spiritual wasteland'. Even here at UTM, where the trendy thing to be is apathetic, I see a great number of events hosted by clubs of a religious affiliation. Consider the recent tri-campus effort of Islam Awareness Week, a visible celebration of the Muslim faith. I would love to see even more open-invite events put on by the many religious-based clubs we have on campus, including the Erindale Christian Fellowship.

To top it off, I think it is somewhat elitist to assume that devout Christians are a dying breed, and that 'flirting with a secular worldview that offers nothing but death and decadence' entails every world faith except for Christianity. World numbers indicate otherwise, and I have spent many hours engrossed in the study of Christian cathedrals around the globe as an art student due to their intricate and lavish golden interiors and expensive, highly-detailed decorative objects. From the start of the faith two-thousand years ago to relatively recent times in human history, the blended force of Church and state was an extremely well-off governing force in society, one which hardly experienced suffrage. Well, at least at an executive level, it seems, although it is a common trend for those in power to abuse it as it has been since the dawn of time.

I think it is time to embrace spiritual diversity and consider the views of others. To ignore that there are a number of other legitimate faiths followed by equally devout people is fairly pompous. Coming to UTM from a relatively segregated Catholic area opened my eyes to the enlightenment of the world's diversity, and I encourage everyone else to take a step back and look around as well. This year, during the Christian celebration of Lent, reflect on your own life, your hopes and your moral character, and see what changes come about that can be taken past the traditional forty-day period and turned into a lifelong betterment of the self. Isn't that the point of any religion, anyway?

Julie Tyios

Transportation troubles debated yet again

re: Student misunderstands the parking and transportation issue
(Vol. 31, Iss. 20)

Dear Ms. Shaila Kibria,

First of all, thank you for your reply, and good luck on your campaign for SAC.

To begin with, in my letter featured in the Feb.7 issue, I did not talk about bus routes. Please refer to that letter at your convenience.

Also, I did not pollute students' understanding of this issue. As you said, you liked my ideas that we should send emails to the president. And I would like to mention again, parking fees are under the Governing Council's jurisdiction. Students may also send emails to the Governing Council Members.

As you mentioned about bus routes, it is in my understanding that bus services are under different cities/regions jurisdictions (TTC, YRT, MT etc). It is true that the Minister of Transportation can act as a coordinator to improve their services, but after all, these companies determine the bus routes themselves. Furthermore, inter-city transportation is not an issue that can be resolved easily. For example, passengers have to pay extra fare if they take the TTC bus to anywhere north of Steels Avenue. If we want buses coming from other cities, the Mississauga Transit will have to negotiate with other transit companies, which is mainly under regional jurisdiction.

Strange enough, if the Honourable Minister really worked hard on this issue, then how come I still don't see buses coming from Brampton, Etobicoke or Oakville, or from GO stations, as you mentioned?

Furthermore, you also wrote that we should not criticize you. Well, as you have the power, you also have the responsibilities, don't you? Also, there is an old Chinese idiom stating "correct mistakes if you have made any and keep good record if you have not". If you feel the criticism is wrong, my apologies; but please bear in mind that you are here to serve the students.
Thank you.

Eddie Lau

Requiem for a snowman

His name was Eugene. He was built several times and each time he was destroyed. University students are supposed to be the most promising people of our generation. This is the best we have to offer? There's graffiti, litter, horrible washrooms and now the destruction of other people's snowmen. What is wrong with people that they feel that they need - and that they have the right - to destroy other people's work on impulse? I don't want to be included in a group with such people. Why can't we have pride and a little respect for others?

In memory of Eugene.

Billy Barnes

Send responses, rants, letters, and opinions to...

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Letters that incite hatred, violence or letters that are racist, homophobic, sexist, or libelous will not be published. Anonymous letters will not be published.

Letters reflect opinions of the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors, staff, volunteers, or board of directors of *The Medium*. In other words, just because we print it doesn't necessarily mean we agree with it.

Submission does not guarantee publication. Submission of a letter to *The Medium* presumes the writer has read and agrees with this policy.

Please submit letters via e-mail to editor@mediumonline.ca.

Statements of Candidates in the Governing Council Election for Students

Voting will be on ROSI from 6 a.m. on February 28 until 5 p.m. on March 4

www.rosi.utoronto.ca

Part-Time Undergraduate Students, Constituency I

Holly Andrews-Taylor (Woodsworth)
I am balancing single parenting and a full-time career with part-time studies. I would like the opportunity to continue to bring forward in an effective manner the concerns part-time students share. I have now spent a productive year as one of your elected representatives, networking with members of Governing Council, and lobbying for the interests of part-time students. I also spoke on behalf of part-time students at the Rae Review Roundtable. I will work, on all three campuses, for continued improvement of student space, an increase in evening classes, additional childcare facilities, and affordable education for all. Thank you, Holly

Shaun Chen (Woodsworth)
As your part-time student governor, I have fought hard to give students a strong voice in the decision-making process. From advocating for more evening-section courses, championing TYP and Academic Bridging, to encouraging student involvement from all three campuses - much more work lies ahead. Part-time students deserve more student space, daycare, as well as proper accommodations and health services. UofT is a large and diverse community: I believe in accessibility and equity for all. A former aide to a Toronto city councillor, I am also a youth and education advocate, described by Maclean's Magazine as "a veteran community leader." www.shaunchen.com

Linda Gardner (Woodsworth)
I am currently enrolled as a part-time student in the Fine Arts Program. As a former Academic Bridging student I have a good understanding of the diverse challenges that part-time students face in trying to move ahead academically. I have over 15 years experience in business development, administration and training, and have participated on a number of executive committees, the most recent being, as the part-time representative on the President's Search Committee for the University of Toronto. As your representative I would work tirelessly to present and defend your important concerns at every opportunity.

Full-Time Undergraduate Students, Constituency I

Husain Aboghodieh (UTM)
My name is Husain Aboghodieh and I want to be your voice on Governing Council for the next academic year. Currently I serve as the College Affairs Commissioner for the Erindale College Students' Union. Through my experience and involvement in the community I have experienced students' issues first hand. By representing you in Governing Council, I am determined to make your voices heard loud and clear. My priorities will be to maintain the tuition fee freeze, oppose deregulation of fees, and increase transparency, accountability and ethical responsibility at the University. Vote for your voice, vote for Husain. http://www.votehusain.ca

Mark Daku (UTM)
I am extremely concerned about the lack of student life at U of T. St. George is one of the only campuses in Canada without a student centre, our governing institutions are unknown and unaccountable to us, and we have become little more than a degree factory. We give our time and our money to this school and get little more than a degree for it. Elect me to Governing Council and I will make sure that this school's administration hears student views from a student who is fed up with being "just a student". See: www.markdaku.com

Coralie D'Souza (Innis)
I will advocate the building of a much-needed student center, a wireless campus, additional student programs/services, as well as a tuition freeze. I bring to the table an abundance of experience in the non-profit sector, was Projects Coordinator for an United Way agency, and worked on various initiatives with NGOs (Green Roofs). Currently my work is in Policy & Research for the City of Toronto. While attending U of T my energies have been directed towards the SAC, the Environmental Students' Union, and the Chestnut Residence Council. I am committed to ensuring that our tuition fees garner better services.

Teya Franciskovic (Woodsworth)
I was born in Croatia, where I completed first grade. I moved to Canada when I was 7. I attended Phillip Pocock high school: there I was editor of the school newspaper and a member of the Heart Ministry, my high school's chaplaincy group for leadership in promoting catholic faith, school spirit and community awareness. I am currently a second year student doing a Psychology Major and Biology specialist. Heres what I have to bring to the Council: Desire, to become involved in my university, Integrity, to do what I believe is right, and a little spunk never hurt anyone.

Jonathan Kim (St. Michael's College)
2005/2006 marks my final year as an undergraduate student at the University of Toronto. In this year, I am expressing my willingness to give a student voice for those in Arts and Science in the Governing Council. After 3 arduous years at U of T, I can truley understand what all of us go through. I would definitely like to see more academic support for students and working to change our status as just a "number". It is my utmost intent to listen to your main concerns and present them to the council. Please vote for me as I will represent you, the student.

Eddie Lau (UTM)
When you vote for me, you are voting for stronger tics with the downtown campus; you are voting for fewer restrictions on taking downtown courses while having more choice of courses at our own campus. You are voting for lower tuition fees and more generous scholarships; you are voting for lower parking and residence fees; you are voting for equity among colleges. Most importantly, you are voting for YOUR voice to be heard on the Governing Council. Take control of your University experience and vote for Eddie Lau!

Robert Levan (Woodsworth)
I am a third year philosophy and political science student. I am a Woodsworth College Rep on SAC, Chair of the SAC Environment Committee, co-chair of U of T Environment Week, and VP of the Varsity mountain bike team. As your Governor, I will fight any movement towards deregulation of tuition, and will advocate keeping our tuition frozen. I will fight for increased student space at St. George, UTSC, and UTM; and will work towards a greener, sustainable, campus. Transparency and accountability in Governance will be my priority. Vote for a strong student voice. Vote Rob Levan for GC. *http://www.roblevan.ca*

Full-Time Undergraduate Students, Constituency I Continued.....

Sarah Nasser (New)
"4" Point Platform: I pledge to increase club funding, enhance tolerance and equity, negotiate reduced student debt, foster every opportunity to enrich the student experience and make our degrees worth more in the global market. I have served you on SAC, campus clubs, and I attend Governing Council meetings. I know the inside tracks on empowering the students. My policy is at *www.vote4sarah.ca* and I encourage you to see how your vote can mean something very special in this election. I am offering my experience, my honesty, and my talent to advance our university to Glory it has never seen.

Chris Smith (UTSC)
As a full-time undergraduate student, I have felt compelled to become involved in the institutions and decisions that affect us. Through my studies in history and political science, the importance of student involvement has become more evident. Students are the life blood of U of T, and should have proper representation in the institutions that govern us. I feel that I can make a positive difference as a student governor, while continuing my education.

Carmen Teeple Hopkins (University College)
I am a second year French and Aboriginal studies student. I am currently an active member on SAC's University Affairs Commission as well as OPIRG's environmental and equity campaigns. As a Governor, I will advocate for lower tuition fees as well as lower metropass prices. I believe that increased student space is a necessity for a functional and healthy campus, and would therefore fight for a student centre at St George which will rival those of UTM and UTSC. Accountability and honesty in governance are my commitments to you. Vote for passion, dedication and energy! Vote Carmen!

Full-Time Undergraduate Students, Constituency II

Ryan Campbell (Engineering)
My name is Ryan Campbell, and I am a second year Engineering Student. As a Pro-Fac rep I would be a strong voice for student interests as I was on SAC for the past year. I believe in fiscal responsibility yet at the same time I strongly disagree with raising dramatically International Students' tuition to solve our budget problems.

Ran Goel (Law)
Over a billion dollars invested in your name: are your endowment funds being invested responsibly? As a council member, I will work towards instituting greater transparency, accountability and social responsibility in the University's endowment fund. I will fight for a campus that is greener, that is less divisive and that is accessible to capable students regardless of socioeconomic background. I am a graduate of the Schulich School of Business at York University and the London School of Economics. Throughout my studies, I have taken on leadership roles in student government, campus newspapers, fundraising campaigns, conferences and sports teams.

Kaspar Ng (Pharmacy)
Hi, my name is Kaspar Ng. I will be much honoured and delighted to bring the perspectives of our collection of students at St. George campus to the Governing Council. In council decisions about the academics, businesses and affairs of our university, I vow to put the well being of all university members first and foremost. I am actively involved at UT. I play intramural sports, volunteer, play archery, sit on the committee for Hart House Chess Club and many more. I'll always be happy to hear from you. My email is *kaspar.ng@utoronto.ca*. Thank you for your support.

Andrew Pinto (Medicine)
In my year of representing you on Governing Council, I have learned a lot about creating change at U of T. Students are disempowered. However, we are a source of creativity that can transform our community. I hope to continue to work on:
" TUITION - Maintaining the tuition freeze and ensuring that financial needs are met.
" STUDENT CENTRE - Pushing the admin to recognize our need, and put resources towards it.
" RESEARCH AGENDA - Recognizing the impact our research has groups here and in developing countries.
" SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY - Emphasizing our duty to be a public good.

Graduate Students, Constituency I

Navine Aggarwal (Rotman)
As a fellow student in a graduate program, I appreciate the importance of issues relating to financial aid, tuition levels, and student services. Having sat on a number of boards and committees, I have gained the experience and knowledge to represent you well. I have the passion, commitment and motivation to effectively serve as your elected representative and be a strong voice for the students. Please take the time to vote Navine Aggarwal as your next Graduate Representative on the Governing Council. Thank you for your support.

Moshe Morris (Rotman)
I am thrilled to submit my name for a position with the Governing Council. I first attended U of T in 1994 and now, after three years of private practice as a Corporate Lawyer, have returned to University to complete my MBA. I am energetic, well-versed and talented individual who would be grateful for the privilege to represent my colleagues on the GC. The University of Toronto has meant so much to me over the years and, if elected, I pledge continue to tradition of excellence that the University deservedly enjoys. For additional information please visit www.mosheforge.blogspot.com .

Roberta Tucci (Italian Studies)
After three years of serving the graduate student membership, currently as the Vice-President Internal of the Graduate Students' Union, I have realized what a great impact student involvement has had on my education. Being presented with the opportunity to sit on Govering Council, now as I am approaching my fourth year in the PhD program in Italian Studies, I am ready to explore it. I would be happy to serve as one of the Graduate Student Representatives on Governing Council. I will continue to advocate on behalf of students on issues that affect our lives here at U of T.

Features

Expressive Photography

By Nikola Nikiforovski

Help recognize teaching excellence at UTM!
TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR
FACULTY & TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Nominations from groups and individuals are invited for two awards:

- Teaching Excellence Award for Faculty and
- Teaching Excellence Award for Teaching Assistants

Nominations from students are encouraged. All members of the teaching staff of UTM, full or part-time, are eligible to be nominated.

To nominate an outstanding Faculty Member and/or Teaching Assistant, go to http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/council/ to access information on nomination procedures.

UofTM
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO *at* MISSISSAUGA
A Great University for a Great Community

Deadline for submissions: Friday, April 15, 2005

Art Heretics

By Steve Elshaw

The older I get the simpler I become
Not trying to seek meaning in every piece of art
Or fast forwarding to each secret song

All of these art heretics
Stray from the truth
Trying to perfect something
That deep down is a spoof

Attempting to create something beautiful out of dirt
On our impulses they feed-
With our emotions they flirt

We stare for hours at these blank screens
Feeling empty as we leave our seats
The credits roll and we talk in disbelief
The more conversation, the smarter we seem

And somewhere in Hollywood the Wizard of Oz laughs
Because with every piece we consume
The deeper we fall into his trap
The disguise, the lies- our demise
Fake art, pieces of mud- yet puffed up in size,
All falsely advertised

Picture of the Week

February Haze

BY MATTHEW KUSIBA

Confused

BY AMALIA VOICU

I was once going to start a poem with:
"Your smile captures my heart"
I scratched it off and put:
"Your eyes are unbelievable to me"
I crossed it off and wrote:
"This poem really sucks,
I just don't know why I like you, dammit!"
I took the paper, ripped it in half, chucked it,
But I couldn't chuck you,
Erase you out of my jumbled head.
Instead, I look out my window for the answer,
Standing on the thin line
Between wanting to erase you
And longing to be with you.

The Golden Years

BY YVETTE BOCHAR

What is doted upon in its foolishness,
Desired in its arrogance,
And despised in its wisdom?

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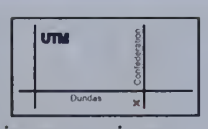

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Rant...

Pay Attention

By Julie Tyios

I cannot even begin to express how rude and disrespectful so many students here at our very own UTM are.

You may say I'm a complainer- true, I hate it when people are too lazy to toss their trash in the correct receptacle, (or at all, for that matter) or throw out bottles and cans in the trash bin lying right next to the clearly marked recycling containers. I hate it when I find gum and cigarette butts stuck to the bottom of my shoes because they are carelessly tossed all over the place, or when people gossip loudly on their cell phones in quiet study areas.

The worst of it all, however, involves a different kind of respect for others, namely one's professor and classmates. You might think I'm silly, but I feel I have a number of valid points, ones which feed my theory that many of us came here after high school for lack of anything better to do, pushed in by our parents who want us to get that piece of paper. Some people could care less about getting an education, and it really shows in many ways.

First off, I was quite relieved when I came here in my first year and found that UTM classes were nowhere near being laptop-dependent. The odd one of us carried our laptop to class and proceeded to type out notes in a super-efficient manner, clacking away all through the lecture. It's somewhat annoying to listen to, but then again, so is the scratch of a pen or pencil on paper, flipping pages and rustling through bags. At least it's justified, however, because you were actually paying attention and absorbing what was being taught during class. Kudos to you.

On the other hand, we have those who bring their laptops to class, plug them in so that the cord creates a trip hazard on lecture hall stairs, and spend the entire class using their wireless connection to chat on MSN with their friends, play solitaire, or anything else under the sun that isn't course-related. Clack clack. Clackity-clack. You may think we can't hear you, but we can. ,I in fact, sat through a three-hour lecture last semester on major British writers where the girl sitting two rows below me and three seats over did just that. I didn't hear a single f-ing word on Spencer's The Faerie Queene. Pity, because it was written in Middle English and fairly hard to decipher on one's own. I moved halfway through the lecture, and yet the keystrokes carried on. Quite simply put - if you are not there to take in what is being said, don't bother showing up. There are wireless hot spots and electrical plugs located in every building on this campus. Utilize them somewhere else.

Maybe the laptop MSN-ers don't realize how rude they really are. That's fine; I might someday take it upon myself to tell you in person. I find it hard to believe, however, that the second group of class wreckers thinks they aren't being so rude. You know, the ones who sit next to their friends during class and whisper or even talk at a normal tone about sports, clothing, what they did last weekend or anything else non-class related. Even talking about course materials is somewhat annoying, but we all need clarification sometimes. If you find class boring, please leave and go talk somewhere in the halls where classes aren't going on. Can't it wait? 99% of this school's population possesses cell phones, use those to chat about random things (not in class). If it really can't wait, if that last goal of the game was too amazing or that boy was just too cute, then use the grade school method - write a note and pass it over to your friend. Professors here could give less of a shit if you're passing notes in class. They aren't going to take them and read them out loud, so please keep it quiet and spare the rest of us.

Like I mentioned before, 99% of us have cell phones. Once in a while they do go off in class. Of course you didn't mean it to; no one wants that kind of singled-out embarrassment. This year I have fairly laid-back professors, not one has ever cared too much when that happened in their class. It happens to the best of us. I don't mind a little disruption once in a while, hell some people have the darndest rings. On the other hand, you have those people who I suppose are also MSN addicts, but lack the laptop. You know who I'm talking about- the text messagers. Yes, we can hear your keypad clicking; don't think for a second that anyone within a 10-foot radius doesn't. Or, if you're one of the really rude ones who doesn't even bother to turn off the key tones, stretch that number to 50. Réally, if you're not here to learn, leave. Most of the computers in the labs located around campus have MSN already installed - if not, try the new web messenger. It works.

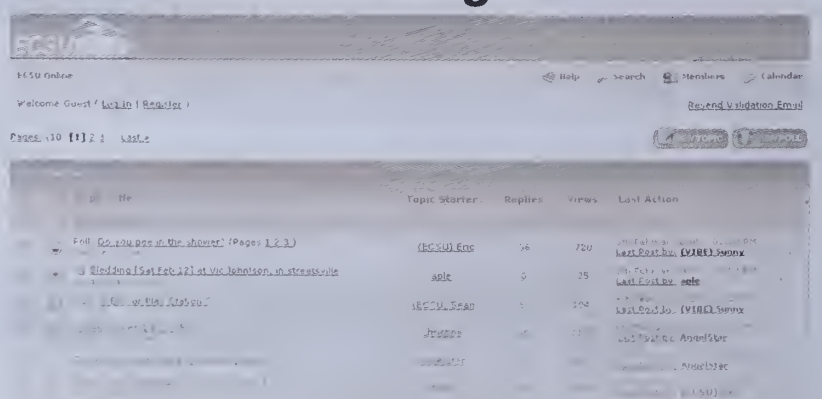
Lastly, (and I'll make this one as short as possible) and perhaps the rudest of all, are those who, upon the professor's word of 'wrapping it up', stand up and begin to talk to everyone around them while the professor still speaks of further course-related materials, readings, tests, or upcoming essays. I often twist and stretch in my seat to try and read my professor's lips, as their voice is near impossible to hear overtop of the chatter. I'm surprised that they don't lose their temper and yell at you all to sit down and shut up. But then again, what do they care? You're paying them a pretty penny for your education, and if you fail or hand in an essay late, it's not too much of their concern. The problem is, you make the rest of us who want to hear what they have to say late to our next class and appointments because we have to stay behind and ask them to repeat themselves when the circus has left the room. Thanks.

Simply put - if you aren't there to listen, please do the rest of us a favour and leave. We are all here because we graduated high school; we should all be a little more mature. And, like I stated before, there are a handful of us who are in class because we really want to learn. You don't have to show up; no one is forcing you to anymore. Stay home, I dare you, and let the rest of us get something out of our classes.

ECSU Erindale College Student Union

Erindale College Student Union News and Notes

Got Some Burning Questions?



Ask away on the ECSU Forums!
http://forums.ecsu.ca

Interested in running for ECSU?
Pick up your nomination package from the ECSU office starting Monday, February 28.

ECSU Annual General Meeting
March 17, 2:30 - 5,
Student Centre Boardroom

ECSU FILM FESTIVAL
Calling all amateur directors! Here's your chance to showcase your movie making talents to the world and to win a
$150 cash prize!
Enter your movie into UTM's 3rd Annual Film Festival.
Categories: 1 Minute movie and 10-15 minute movie.
Download the information sheet and application form **ecsu.ca**

Polish those lens, charge that battery and get filming UTM

ECSU is looking for a CRO and a DRO for the upcoming election.
Submit your resume to president@ecsu.ca

SLEF Logo Contest
Vote for your favourite logo on ecsu.ca!
Submissions deadline March 4, 2005

UTM Transportation Survey
Please take a minute and participate in the UTM Transportation Survey on ecsu.com
Your feedback is important to all at Erindale. Those who participate will be entered into a raffle draw.

www.ecsu.ca

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Constantine is a surprisingly good mix of action and the supernatural

MOVIE REVIEW:
Constantine
BY SCOTT PIETRANGELO

There have been countless interviews with the cast and crew of the latest Keanu Reeves film, *Constantine*, based on the DC/Vertigo comic book *Hellblazer*. They're all asked "What is this movie about?" and no one has given the same answer. For some reason, it eludes everyone. Let me try and set the record straight.

Keanu Reeves plays John Constantine, a bitter, hard-drinking, chain-smoking man on a personal mission to assure his way into heaven. When he was a teenager, he committed suicide because he was born with the gift (or curse) of being able to see angels and demons. He actually died for two minutes, during which he went to Hell (because suicides are considered lost souls in the Catholic faith). After he was resurrected by doctors, he realized that he would be going back to Hell eventually, so he made it his goal to earn his way into heaven by fighting and exorcising demons in the name of God. Eventually, he became known to both priests and police as the one to go to if something supernatural is going on.

photo/imdb.com

Keanu Reeves plays the title character, John Constantine, in this supernatural action flick.

There are two catches, however. One is that he is diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer, so his time is quickly running out. The other is that he simply cannot earn his way into heaven: he must believe. He has a hard time with this, considering that he has seen angels and demons his whole life, but he is told by the angel Gabriel (yes, THE Gabriel), that there is a difference between seeing and believing. Until he can bring himself to believe and understand what faith is truly about, he's fucked (exact words, coming from an angel).

> "I normally am not a Keanu Reeves fan, simply because the man doesn't emote. For this film, however, that seemed to work for him"

Enter the detective story: a young police officer (Rachel Weisz) is trying to solve the case of her twin sister's apparent suicide and all of her attempts to solve the mystery lead her to Constantine. He takes a trip into Hell (using, of all possible things, a cat and some water) to determine if her sister's death really was a suicide and not a murder. He fights off hoards of demons which seem strangely hell bent (no pun intended) on getting their hands on her, and takes her deeper and deeper into the world of the supernatural until she decides to visit Hell for herself. Rachel Weisz is wonderful as ever. She seemed perfect for the role of both sisters in this film, although I did miss her great British accent.

That make sense? The crazy thing is that I could go on for another two or three paragraphs about other plots, like the conspiracy against God and the spear that killed Christ which grants its keeper power over everything, but I'll let you see the movie.

Besides having an incredibly complex plot that seems to confuse the hell out of everyone (pun intended), *Constantine* is an incredibly enjoyable movie. It's not a terribly frightening film, so those of you expecting to be scared silly may be disappointed. What it is, however, is a very original and creative supernatural/action romp with the spirituality of *The Exorcist* and *The Prophecy*, just the right amount of action, and dry, witty comedy in all the right places. One of the comedic highlights is Constantine's young apprentice who is always trying to prove that he, too, is worthy of fighting demons instead of simply being his driver.

I normally am not a Keanu Reeves fan, simply because the man doesn't emote. For this film, however, that seemed to work for him. There's something about him walking into a room with a possessed girl, calmly setting down his cigarette, having an intense battle with the demon inside her and, after exorcising it, coming back to his cigarette to find it burnt down and being more upset about that than anything else. He has some very quick one-liners and subtle gags that really add to his bitter character, and by the end you actually care about whether he achieves his goal or not.

Well, I spent more time trying to break down the plot than reviewing the film itself, but I think you get the idea. *Constantine* is a fun, exciting film that's very easy to get lost in with its crazy plot and great action. It makes you wonder what the hell is going to happen next.

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The 2005 Snider Visiting Lecturer

Jeffrey Simpson

National affairs columnist for *The Globe and Mail* and author of a number of books on Canadian politics including *The Friendly Dictatorship* and *Anxious Years: Politics in the Age of Mulroney and Chretien*.

"Canada's Global Agenda at Home and Abroad"

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

8:00 p.m.

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Embrace the humanity of *Batboy*

THEATRE REVIEW
Batboy the Musical
BY DAIMAINE DUFFUS

"Hold me batboy. Love me batboy. Touch me batboy."

From the pages of various tabloids to an off-Broadway play, *Batboy the Musical* has arrived. My high hopes for this particular play were strongly met when I was presented with its amazingly odd storyline about a half-boy/half-bat creation. *Batboy the Musical* is an interestingly unique production, not too far from stories like *Rocky Horror* or *Edwards Scissorshands*. It is given an added twist through the musical lyrics and emotional highs and lows.

For those who don't know, the story of Batboy was first brought to light sometime in 1992 and continued to develop over the following years. The play starts off with the discovery of an adolescent Batboy by three other teenagers who decided to explore a deep cave. We are then taken on a journey of social development and human acceptance when the batboy is taken in by the local vet and his family. He continues searching for this idea of home and acceptance even as he becomes fully adapted into the inner circle of the family and the mannerisms of modern society.

Jay T. Schramek plays the lead role of the pointed eared, fang tooth, bad postured boy with true skill, making the character seem real. Throughout the play you feel for this likeable character who really just wants to be accepted and, more importantly, loved. When Batboy and Shelley, the daughter of the town vet (played by Laura Caswell), fall in love, you can't help but acknowledge the sweetness of their relationship. That is until this is brought to a late realization and interesting twist of events.

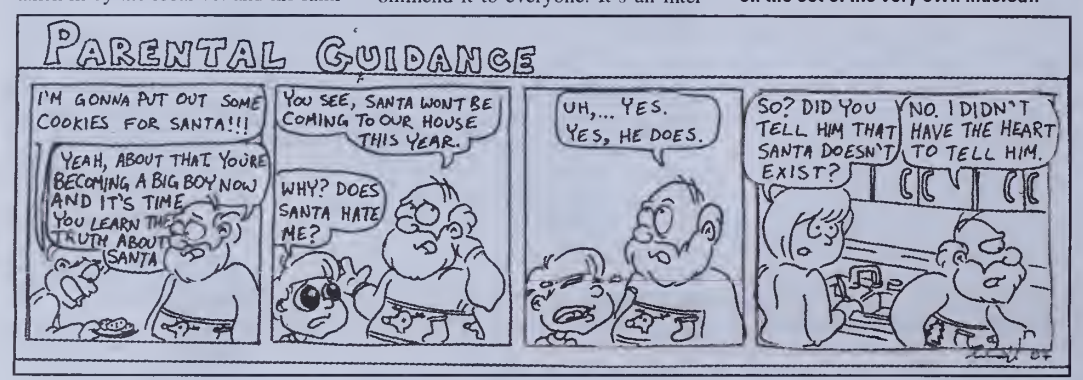
Behind the amazingly bazaar storyline and characters was a great set well worth mentioning. The design for the set was not only fully functional but visually interesting. It was a nice back drop for the small cast of many characters.

Another interesting aspect of the play was that at some points two characters would be played by one actor by the change of a hat or wig, often right on stage. It brought another sense of comedy to the already comedic production.

This play was just great and I recommend it to everyone. It's an interesting twist on reality, one that may not be so far away from our own. When you think about it, who among us hasn't felt out of place from time to time or longed for a pure love? *Batboy the Musical* was funny, smart and relevant. By the end, you learn a little something about acceptance; you start seeing this character as less of a freak and more like one of us.

Batboy the Musical plays until April 16 at the Bathurst Street Theatre. For more information: www.batboy.com

photo/ John Laueren
Batboy (Jay T. Schramek) hangs out on the set of his very own musical.


PARENTAL GUIDANCE
I'M GONNA PUT OUT SOME COOKIES FOR SANTA!!!
YEAH, ABOUT THAT YOU'RE BECOMING A BIG BOY NOW AND IT'S TIME YOU LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT SANTA
YOU SEE, SANTA WON'T BE COMING TO OUR HOUSE THIS YEAR.
WHY? DOES SANTA HATE ME?
UH,... YES. YES, HE DOES.
SO? DID YOU TELL HIM THAT SANTA DOESN'T EXIST?
NO. I DIDN'T HAVE THE HEART TO TELL HIM.

Local comedian treats home crowd to laughs

COMEDY REVIEW
Russell Peters
BY SAMIR PATEL

Yuk Yuk's International Comedy Club, located at 401 and Dixie, found itself sold out to a crowd of more than 300 people on February , after word broke out that one of its most famous local comedians, Russell Peters, would be performing in Mississauga.

Arguably one of the most controversial and soon to be most sought after celebrities of our generation. Russell Peters' claim to stardom stemmed primarily from his ability to poke fun at his East-Indian culture, and any other culture for that matter. His ability to highlight popular racial attitudes in a manner that is not only comedic, but remarkably accurate, proves that society has yet to overcome its cultural biases. In spite of this delicate and controversial issue, Russell's youthful hip-hop persona combined with his everyday observations of societal interactions allows him to get away with it.

Fortunately for the audience at Yuk Yuk's, the Indo-Canadian comedian was smart enough to bring completely new material with him, a change from what's found on the "Comedy Now" showcase, which is in wide circulation on the Internet. Although the jokes were completely different, the themes remained entirely the same as Russell commented on popular cultural observances, ranging anywhere from Asians and their obsession with the video game *Dance Nation*, to Indians and their consistent hesitation to open their wallets.

While the first thirty to forty-five minutes had the audience gasping for air and clenching their abs, it wasn't long before Russell found himself contemplating what his next joke would be. This was made evident when he paused for 10 seconds or so, and then ended up insulting people in the audience in a sort of fail-safe attempt at humour. Then again, filling a two hour time slot is no walk in the park, especially when you've performed earlier that evening, and don't have to deal with the pressure that would be expected if you were given your own prime-time TV special.

In any case, the audience did seem to get their twenty-five dollars worth, and enjoyed the night even if it was at the expense of some people's egos being abused. There are three lessons to learn from this experience: 1) Never sit in the front row. 2) Never dress yourself to be an obvious target. 3) No matter how much you've had to drink earlier, under no circumstances get up to use the restrooms once the show has started. A violation of any of these rules is, without question, sufficient reason to believe that "SOMEBODY GONNA GET A-HURT....REAL BAD!"

Be sure to check out his website and up-coming tour dates:

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Explore African heritage with COBA

COBA (Collective of Black Artists) took the stage with extraordinary energy in their performance of "Inspirit," part of *Bodika/Sessions*, last Thursday. It was a pleasure to see so much genuine joy pour out from the dancers.

The opening scene was a high-spirited dance that incorporated elements of ballet and traditional African moves into an overall modernistic composition. It is a real expression of blending the influences of imperialism with African tribal jig, the perfect way to start off a program aimed at touching issues of rediscovering African heritage in the face of cultural Diaspora.

The colorful costumes added even more spunk to the already vivacious dancers who had little trouble managing the African-style drapes and keeping in time with the neo-African music.

The most exhilarating part of the show is the traditional African drumming. Using various techniques, the drummers were able to create a plethora of beats that roused the entire theatre to clap along. One of the dancers, Sarah Anthony, said in an interview last week that "COBA is trying to recreate something that is real," and this could not have come through more powerfully than in the drumming performance. The drummers were in traditional garb, banging their passions out on the hide. Amongst them was a small boy who was undeniably the star of the group. They seemed like a cut-out of dazzling street performers displaced in a theatre hall.

The main act also incorporated the live drumming but got a little more political. It was a powerful representation of the commodification of culture in the growing global market. The traditional African costume was used to represent the trivialization of culture because material goods are too easily mistaken as representations of the essence of a culture.

Black-dressed figures violently took the floor with authentic African dance. They were set against a singular dancer that is clearly characterized as one who is not part of the group or has perhaps fallen astray. She was opposingly dressed in a light color and appeared to be ignorant to, but intrigued by the passions of the black-clad tribe. Nevertheless, she worked her way into the group by mimicking their moves and with her interference the unified community began to stagger in its movement, eventually falling apart and defeatedly crawling off the stage.

They returned, however, and offered the outsider pieces of the traditional African dress, which she had coveted in belief that possessing them would make her part of the community. But she was tormented by the others who chanted "conscious costume won't bring your soul back." The outsider ends up returning the merchandise, realizing that material goods cannot substitute the spirit from which culture originates.

The performance ended with a spectacular showcasing of daily life in Africa. The drummers occupy the rear of the stage in traditional East-African garb and beat out tunes intertwined with chants. The dancers kept time to the beat in the forefront in dances representing the typical duties of women and men in African villages. After a good day's work, the villagers celebrated. I noted that the dance team is in desperate need of male dancers because, even though the girls looked somewhat handsome in the traditional male garb, I was not quite convinced that they were men.

The scene was played out very beautifully and translated its energy and joy right into the audience who was encouraged to clap to the beat and sing. Although I knew it was a utopian representation of an African community, it brought out much sentimentality on the topic of spiritual health. It seems like the Western culture is very negligent in fostering simple joy for the soul.

COBA has made a great contribution to Black History Month through its thought-provoking and awareness-raising performances which ran last Wednesday through Saturday. They are definitely performers worth seeing and will hopefully astound audiences again next February, as well as throughout the rest of the year. For upcoming events visit the official COBA website at www.cobainc.com.

A *Beautiful* jazz album

CD REVIEW
Bic Runga,
Beautiful Collision

BY TINA HUNG

Amazingly simple, clean and mellow – this is exactly how I'd describe Bic Runga's newest album, *Beautiful Collision*. A definite treasure to anyone who likes a modern type of jazz, Bic possesses a soft, yet sharp-ended jazz voice. One could think of her style as a cross between Norah Jones and John Mayer. Notice I say "style" and not "voice"!

In addition to singing, Bic, a native of New Zealand, played many of the instruments featured in her songs. Did I mention she produced *Beautiful Collision* too? Wow. Not many singers can say that, can they?

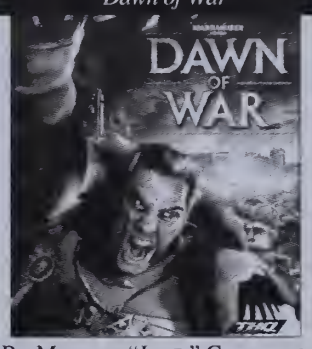
On her album, which consists of twelve songs, my favourite numbers include 'When I See You Smile,' 'Get Some Sleep,' 'Honest Goodbyes' and of course, the title track, 'Beautiful Collision.' I like 'Get Some Sleep' because it's catchy, quick-paced and fun. You can bop to the beat of the tambourine!

Then there's 'Honest Goodbyes' in which a sweeter version of Bic's voice emerges. The most unique-song on Bic's album is no doubt, hands-down, 'Beautiful Collision.' The contrast of her voice against the violin, piano and the drums is indeed a "beautiful collision." You have to listen to this one to know what I mean!

So to all those listeners out there, who want to try something new, like perhaps a modern jazz album, pick up your copy of *Beautiful Collision*.

Warhammer goes digital

COMPUTER GAME REVIEW
Warhammer 40,000: Dawn of War



BY MICHAEL "JUBEI" CHINDAMO

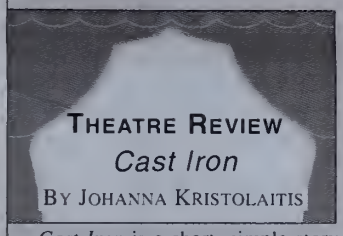
Long time fans of the table top miniatures game *Warhammer 40,000* received a long anticipated wish in the real time *Warhammer 40,000: Dawn of War* by THQ® and Games Workshop Interative ™. Set in the future (40,000 years from now), players take on the role of the noble Space Marines as they attempt to save a planet from certain annihilation at the hands of the brutish Orcs.

The game comes complete with a single player story mode and a multiplayer skirmish mode where a player can fight up to eight opponents, both computer and fellow player. Though the story mode only allows you to play as one race, the skirmish mode allows you to play as all four races featured in the game: the Space Marines and Orcs as well as the ancient Eldar and the diabolical forces of Chaos. Unfortunately only four of the eleven races from the tabletop version are in the actual game, but rumors of upcoming add-ons promise more races.

A player builds forces by capturing key "strategic points" on the map and defending them. Each race comes with a different set of units, allowing for an amazing battle. Though the game is fully 3D rendered and requires Transformation and Lighting support, it also comes with a "safe mode" for players without the most expensive video cards available (i.e. this reviewer). Another interesting feature is the Army Painter mode, which allows you to create your own unique army colors for multiplayer.

This is definitely a game worth trying. I recommend trying the demo version online if you aren't sure.

Cast of one presents many characters



Cast Iron is a short, simple story about Libya Geraldine Atwell and her family, all told through the talented Alison Sealy-Smith. Waiting out her days in a Winnipeg nursing home, Libya is visited by a long-lost nephew, Winston, who we don't see. In Bajan dialect, she recounts stories of growing up on plantations in Barbados with a gambling father, an off-beat grandmother, and Winston's mother, her half-sister Gracie.

She embodies all the people of her past as she shares her life with us. The transitions between characters and between past and present are virtually seamless, no doubt with credit due to director ahdri zhina mandiela as well. Sealy-Smith shifts from shuffling in slippers to all the attitude of her half-sister through to her delicate grandmother, her deep-voiced father, and the charming James Blackwell, Winston's father. Every once in a while, an intense pain in Libya's side, accompanied by sound and lighting effects, interrupts a story or dialogue to Winston, the invisible, silent scene partner.

The flashback nature of this first play by Lisa Codrington works surprisingly well. Sometimes it seems as though we've been brought to the past, while other times it feels like Libya is performing her relatives for us, but either way it is a touching story. The set and costumes by Camellia Koo complement both the reality and the shifting nature of the play. The same is true for the lighting by Michelle Ramsay and the sound by Richard Lee and Alejandra Nunez.

The play is an amazingly smooth ride, which seems like a roller coaster in reflection. By the end, Libya's complex character touches a tender place in your heart. She asks for your hand, and you want to give it to her. The lights fade; applause will have to do.

Cast Iron plays at Tarragon Theatre's Extra, Space (30 Bridgman Avenue) until March 13. Performances are Tuesday through Saturday at 8 p.m., and weekends at 2:30 p.m. For more information: www.tarragontheatre.com

Wan's work displayed at Blackwood

ART REVIEW
Theodore Wan photo exhibit

BY SABEEN ABBAS

The Blackwood Gallery is currently exhibiting some of the photo-based works of the late Vancouver artist, Theodore Wan (1853-1987). According to the curator, Christine Conley, "Theodore Wan's reputation as an intriguing photo-conceptual artist was secured in the late 1970s by a remarkable series of medical photographs that played on the ambivalent status of the photograph as art object and illustration."

Wan spent two years at the Dalhousie Medical and Dental School in Halifax where he photographed himself as the subject of pictures depicting technically accurate medical procedures. There is a feeling of movement to the exhibit because of the arrangement of these photographs into organized clumps. It is informative from a purely medical point of view and satisfying artistically because of the quality of the pictures.

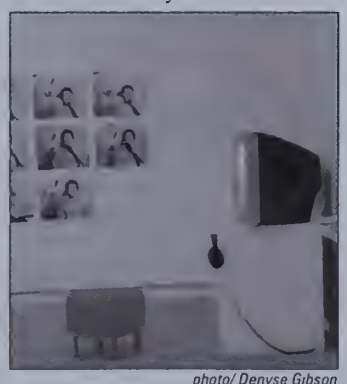
An idea that Wan was especially interested in was the relationship between being a performer in the photograph and being the photographer. Apparently there was no limit of what Theodore Wan would go to in order to explore the concept of photographer and photographed. To this end, there is a scanning electron microscope picture of the artist's sperm.

Theodore Wan also had an amazing sense of humour. One day while in New York, he happened to see Jackie Onassis and took a picture of her. He then developed 100 copies of the 3" x 5" print and placed them in public places like buses and restaurants. The picture is on display at the gallery.

After finding out about a town named Theodore in Saskatchewan, Theodore Fu Wan became intrigued by the similarity to his own name. After doing some research, he had his name officially changed to Theodore Saskatche Wan.

This is an interesting exhibit that will leave you wanting to know more about Theodore Wan's work and his life. While visiting the exhibit, be sure to look for a piece entitled "And I did it in just 10 minutes!"

The exhibit runs until March 13. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 11am to 5pm and Sunday 1 to 5pm. For more information call the Blackwood Gallery at 905-828-3789.



photo/ Denyse Gibson

A video, as well as plenty of pictures, await visitors to Blackwood Gallery.

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Sport/Team	Wins	losses	ties
Basketball Division 1	5	0	0
Basketball Division 2	3	0	0
Basketball Tri-Campus	4	3	0
Indoor Soccer Division 1	5	3	0
Indoor Soccer Division 2	1	0	0
Volleyball Division 2	3	2	0
Volleyball Tri-campus	1	3	0
Lacrosse	2	3	0
Ice Hockey	7	1	0

Men's UTM Standings

Sport/Team	Wins	losses	ties
Basketball Division 1	5	0	0
Basketball Division 2	3	0	0
Indoor Soccer Division 1	4	3	0
Indoor Soccer Division 2	5	3	0
Volleyball Division 1	1	0	0
Volleyball Division 2	3	2	0
Ice Hockey	1	3	0
Ice Hockey Tri-Campus	2	3	0
Lacrosse	7	1	0
Waterpolo			

- Trade of the Week -

A total of eleven trades were made on last Thursday as the NBA trade deadline came and passed. There were not many blockbuster deals made, but the one deal that did surprise many people was the Sacramento Kings sending power forward Chris Webber to the Philadelphia Sixers for Kenny Thomas, Brian Skinner and Corliss Williamson. Webber is one of the best power forwards in the league and should provide instant help for the Sixers. Another surprise was a deal that was not made, as the Toronto Raptors decided to hang onto Donyell Marshall instead of moving him.

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Top seven needs of the NFC

By Michael Singh

Chicago Bears

Wide Receiver- When your starting receiving tandem is David Terrell and Bobby Wade, you must be thin at receiver. The Bears desperately need a playmaker on the outside for Rex Grossman and one option could be Braylon Edwards of Michigan in the first round. The Bears could also dip into the free agent market with many receivers available such as Plaxico Burress, Derrick Mason and possibly Laveranues Coles.

Offensive Tackle- The Bears paid big money for John Tait last year and he could be moving from right tackle to left tackle in the upcoming year. This leaves a hole at right tackle since Marc Colombo has been unable to return from knee injuries that have plagued his career.

Detroit Lions

Strong Safety- The Lions were on the cusp of landing Sean Taylor in the draft last season but Washington took him a pick ahead of them. The Lions decided to go with Brian Walker at strong safety going into last season and they paid the price, as Walker was unable to get the job done. The Lions need a safety that can come up with big plays during the course of a game and they could find one in the draft in Thomas Davis or Brodney Pool. If the lions are able to land a free safety, they could end up moving Brock Marion over to strong safety.

Green Bay Packers

Defensive End- The Packers need to find a pass rushing threat opposite Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila and the answer is not Aaron Kampman. While Kampman is a good run stopping end, he better suited to be a situational player and a backup, rather than an every down player. The Packers have limited cap space, so finding an end would most likely have to come through the draft.

Linebacker- There are options here for the Packers, as they could keep Nick Barnett in the middle and grab an outside linebacker to replace Hannibal Navies. On the other hand, they could get a middle linebacker and move Barnett to the outside. One thing is for sure though, the Packers need speed and athleticism at linebacker and need another starter.

Minnesota Vikings

Outside Linebacker- The Vikings are in desperate need of an upgrade at the outside linebacker positions, but first they have to sort out where they are planning to play each linebacker. During the year, the Vikings shifted linebackers more than any other team in the league, but in this off season they must bring a veteran to help develop the young talent they currently have at the linebacker position.

Safety- Brian Russell came back down to earth after his outstanding 2003 campaign when he picked off nine passes. Russell struggled in 2004, picking off only one pass while struggling in coverage. The Vikings could use an upgrade here; they could move Corey Chavous to strong safety if they are able to pick up a free safety.

UTM mens' soccer team represents at Sheridan College invitational tournament

GERGIN NAOUMOV

On February 18, the UTM mens' indoor soccer team participated in the prestigious Sheridan College Invitational Tournament. Many of the top varsity teams in the province attended the tournament. UTM narrowly lost the championship, after losing on penalty shots in the final to national powerhouse Humber College.

In the first game of the round-robin stage, UTM beat Sir Sanford Fleming College 2-0. Goal scorers for UTM were Mike Bialy and Paul Costa. Goalie Rafiq Hakim did not see much action because of the great play of defensemen Bruno Pellegrino, Andrewas Rabba, Paul Costa and little Francesco (who doesn't need a last name because he was breaking opposing players like Ting in Ong Bak).

UTM's next game versus Fanshaw College finished in a 1-1 draw. Mike Bialy was again the scorer for UTM. Strong play from midfielders Mark Reeves, James Bialy and Mazen Zaki helped to keep the skilled Fanshaw players in check. The final game of the first round pitted UTM versus Mohawk College. The game ended in a 0-0 draw and ensured UTM a place in the knockout stage.

In the semifinals, UTM demolished a strong team from Conestoga 6-1. More importantly, Paul Costa megged four players. Mike Bialy, little brother James Bialy, and Mazen Zaki lead the offensive charge for UTM with some classy goals. Some Conestoga players began changing midway through the second half.

In the final, UTM squared off against a talented Humber College team. UTM came out flat and quickly fell behind 3-0. This got the Humber fans into a raucous mood, as they started taunting and throwing pop bottles at the UTM players. A pretty classless act by the Humber fans. At half time, UTM regrouped and came out aggressive like Rocky IV against Ivan Drago. After they scored the first goal, some UTM players probably began singing "Eye of the Tiger" in their heads, even though that was from Rocky III. One player did for sure. After they scored another to make the score 3-2, the Humber fans began to quiet down and looked nervous. Soon after, Mike Bialy tied the game and sent the two UTM fans into a frenzy. Inevitably, UTM took the lead on a Paul Costa goal with about five minutes left. The shell-shocked Humber players did not know what to do, and some Russian generals began applauding in the stands.

Unfortunately, the game ended in tragedy for UTM. After receiving a red card, UTM conceded a fluke goal from a shot that deflected off several players with about 30 seconds left in the game. In the overtime session, UTM missed a wide open net when a goal-line scramble shot was cleared from the line. Then in the penalty shootout, UTM lost 2-1. Nonetheless, UTM proved that it can play with the best teams in Ontario. Perhaps it is time for UTM to have a full-time varsity team that plays against top teams instead of playing against smart, but athletically-challenged teams like Dentistry and Law in interfaculty play.

In related news, the men's indoor soccer team also beat archrivals Scarborough (UTSC) 7-2 in interfaculty play. Mazen Zaki and Francesco Coscerelli led the way with two goals each. Helder Borges scored the goal of the game with a blast into the top corner. Goalie Adam Parisi also made some solid saves and megged two UTSC plyers for style points. Credit has to be given to UTSC who continually come to these games with naïve enthusiasm and hopes of winning even though they get demolished each time. They are the Washington Generals with bachelor degrees.

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UTM 'A' continues its dominance in Indoor Cricket Intramurals

BY ANEEQ KHALID

The second U of T Indoor Cricket Intramural tournament was held at UTSC on Friday, February 18. Four teams from UTSC along with two teams each from UTM and St.George campus took part in this tournament. UTM 'A' continued its good form into this tournament as well after an extramural tournament victory one week back. UTM A's first match was against a team named 'Pakistan' from UTSC and as expected UTM A demolished Pakistan without any real fight from the latter. In their next match, UTM A faced 'Uganda', another team from UTSC and the defending champions of U of T Indoor Cricket Intramurals. UTM A was able to defeat the defending champions with relative ease. Next they faced a team from the St. George campus named 'Pakistani Commandos'. UTM A had already qualified for the semi-finals by winning both of their first two matches and could not be displaced from being at the top of their pool even if they lost this match. This turned out to be the best match of the tournament. Batting first, UTM A set the highest score of the tournament by scoring 72 runs in their allotted seven overs thanks to some explosive batting by Nadir Khan. Pakistani Commandos did not give up the match at any point and started their chase pretty well. The stage was set for a dramatic finish to the match as the Commandos needed six runs from the last ball to tie the match and to everyone's amazement, they did it.

In the semi-finals, UTM A faced the 'St.George Knights'. It was well balanced in the beginning, but then as the match progressed, UTM A came out to be the stronger team and defeated the Knights to reach the finals. In the Final, UTM A again faced 'Uganda.' Uganda had won this trophy last year but clearly UTM A remained the favorites to win it this time. Batting first, Uganda scored 56 in the allotted six overs. The target seemed huge in the beginning when UTM A lost one of their openers on the second ball of the first over but as the match progressed, UTM A opening batsman, Aneeq Khalid, took control of the match along with Nadir Khan and UTM A were able to chase the target in just five overs, with both Aneeq and Nadir still on the crease. UTM A captain Syed Wajahat lifted the trophy at the awards presentation whereas Nadir Khan got the trophy for the 'Best All-rounder' award and Aneeq Khalid got the trophy for the 'Man of the Finals' award. UTM A attack bowler Waleed Khan was unlucky not to get the 'Best Bowler' trophy and both Aneeq and Nadir had a good chance of lifting the 'Best Batsman' trophy, but both these trophies were instead handed over to the home team. Opening batsman Salman Malik played superbly throughout the tournament, always laying a solid platform for the rest of the UTM A batsmen. UTM A was always invincible in the bowling department thanks to some classy bowling by Ahmed Hussain and Shajee Hasnain while Waleed Khan was undoubtedly the best bowler of the tournament. As this was a co-ed tournament, UTM A was well supported by their female players, Ambreen Dossani, Mariam Sutarwala and Maryam Rana.

This was UTM A's second trophy in two weeks following their Extramural victory at Sheridan College one week back and the team thus remains unbeaten in two Indoor Cricket tournaments now.

The Rock back to top form in NLL

BY MICHAEL SINGH

While there is no hockey being played at the Air Canada Center, there is another team putting on a show for their fans: the Toronto Rock. Possibly the most successful National Lacrosse League team of the past five years, the Rock is off to another great start this year. The Rock has won four titles in the past six years and hopes to claim their fifth title since their inception in 1999. The Rock currently holds the best record in the NLL, at 5-2, leading their division by .5 games over Buffalo. Toronto is led by a balanced scoring attack, featuring Blaine Manning, Colin Doyle and Josh Sanderson. Manning has tallied 44 points while Doyle and Sanderson have racked up 43 points each. The Rock is the only team in the league to have three players in the top nine scoring. The Rock is also playing very well on their special teams. The Rock currently covert 45% of their power plays into goals, while they have only given up a paltry four short handed goals. However, their penalty killing could use some work, as they only kill off 56% of their penalties, third worst in the league. However, they have scored eight short handed goals, making up for some of their short comings on the penalty kill. The Rock's offense has been average this season, as they are scoring 14 goals a game, but their two losses are weighing down that average since they only scored 17 goals in those two games. The Rock are also giving up 12 goals a game, a number that can and should be improved on in the second half of the season. On the other hand, this may not be the case since the Rock play an open, offensive game which allows other teams to get more scoring chances.

The Rock have a tough first two games coming out of the all star break, as they play the two teams behind them in the East Division, Rochester and Buffalo. Rochester is the only team to beat the Rock this year, as they beat them in both of their meetings. Buffalo also put up a fight in the opening game of the season before falling 15-13. The Rock have a strange ending to the season, as their last five games are against two teams, Calgary and Philadelphia. If the Rock hopes to claim the NLL championship once again they need to win their division to get the much needed first round bye. If the Rock continues on the pace they currently are on, then they would also get home court advantage through the playoffs. This is a huge advantage because it means Toronto will be home for the entire playoffs.

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UTM Womens' Basketball Highlights

Below (Top): UTM shoots a free throw as both teams watch in anticipation.

Bottom: UTM grabs the rebound off the net, using great offense to score while others watch in the background.

UTM vs. UTSC, February 27th, 2005

Left: UTM grabs the ball back from opponents UTSC following a missed opportunity for a basket.

Above: UTM's offense comes to the rescue once again in the scoring end.

Below: UTM brings on the defense, working well despite UTSC's attempts.

All photos/Denyse Gibson

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